

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-7 (Cancelled).

8. (Original) A roller cone drill bit, comprising:

a bit body adapted to be coupled to a drill string, the bit body including at least one leg depending therefrom, the leg having a bearing journal thereon, the leg defining a shirttail portion at an end thereof;
a roller cone having cutting elements thereon and rotatably affixed to the at least one bearing journal; and
a hardface coating applied to the shirttail portion, the hardface coating applied by a high pressure/high velocity oxygen fuel torch.

9. (Original) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8 wherein the hardface coating comprises tungsten carbide.

10. (Currently Amended) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8 wherein the ~~hardfacing~~ hardface coating has a thickness ~~after the operating~~ of about 0.1 to 0.6 mm.

11. (Original) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8 wherein a thickness of the hardface coating is approximately 0.25 to 0.28 mm.

12. (Original) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8 wherein the hardface

coating is applied to a segment of the shirttail portion bounded at one end by a shirttail tip and at the other end by a line passing through a center of the bearing journal and perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the bit body.

13. (Currently Amended) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8 wherein the ~~hardfacing~~ hardface coating is applied after assembly of at least one roller cone to the bit body.
14. (Previously Presented) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8, the bit body including three legs depending therefrom.
15. (Currently Amended) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8, wherein the ~~hardfacing~~ hardface coating ~~material~~ comprises a material that increases a wear resistance of a material of the shirttail portion to which the ~~hardfacing~~ hardface coating is applied.
16. (Currently Amended) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8, wherein the ~~hardfacing~~ hardface coating ~~material~~ comprises a metal carbide.
17. (Currently Amended) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 16, the metal carbide comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of vanadium, ~~and chromium, and~~ titanium.

18. (Previously Presented) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8, the cutting elements comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of hard metal inserts, composite inserts, and milled steel teeth.